

Message Text

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16

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 TRSE-00 L-03 COME-00 EB-11 PA-04

/030 W

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R 210854Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8341

AMCONSUL NAHA

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USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: OKINAWA EXPO 75

REF: TOKYO 15097-C

1. JAIIE AND MITI'S OFFICIAL POSITION REGARDING POSSIBLE CANCELLATION, POSTPONEMENT, OR SCALING DOWN OF EXPO '75 IS "NO COMMENT".
2. INFORMED SOURCES IN MITI AND JAIIE, HOWEVER, CONFIRM LOCAL PRESS REPORTS THAT GOJ WILL MAKE ITS DECISION EARLY NEXT WEEK, PROBABLY NOV 27 AT MEETING OF CABINET MINISTERS CONCERNED WITH EXPOSITION. SOURCES FURTHER INDICATE THESE PROBABILITIES:
 - A. CANCELLATION (AT LEAST AT THIS TIME) IS EITHER "OUT OF THE QUESTION" OR "VERY REMOTE";
 - B. SCALING DOWN THE BUDGET AND SCOPE OF EXHIBIT ALSO IS HIGHLY UNDESIRABLE BUT MAY BECOME NECESSARY;
 - C. POSTPONEMENT TO A DATE LATER THAN MARCH BUT WITHIN CALENDAR YEAR 1975 IS DEFINITE POSSIBILITY;

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- D. POSTPONEMENT TO LATER DATE IS LESSER POSSIBILITY AND

WOULD BE DISCUSSED AT THE NOV 29TH BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING FOR OFFICIAL DECISION AT NEXT MAY'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING (GOJ WILL NOT HAVE TIME TO PREPARE OFFICIAL, WRITTEN RECOMMENDATION TO NOV 29 MEETING BUT WILL BE ABLE TO DISCUSS PROBLEM AND MAKE VERBAL RECOMMENDATIONS.)

3. POST COMMENT: WE LOOK FOR DECISION NEXT WEEK ON GOJ POSITION FOR VERBAL PRESENTATION AT NOV 29 B.I.E. MEETING AND PROBABLY ANNOUNCING POSTPONEMENT OF SEVERAL MONTHS. THEREAFTER, POST BELIEVES POSSIBLE CANCELLATION (NOW HOTLY DENIED BY ALL OFFICIAL SOURCES) WILL BE SUBJECT OF INTENSE AND CONTINUED DEBATE AMONG INTERESTED MINISTRIES AND OKINAWA INTERESTS. ALTHOUGH EXPO '75 WILL RETAIN A SIGNIFICANT PRIORITY, GOJ'S FINAL DECISION WILL BE BASED ON HIGHER NATIONAL PRIORITIES.

4. FOR INFORMATION OF AGENCY AND STATE, POST IS REPEATING NOV 19 CABLE REPORT FROM CONGEN NAHA OUTLINING LOCAL OKINAWAN CONSIDERATIONS.

CARTER

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